

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission, July 8, 2019, 5-6:30PM.

Present: Jean McGrane, Laura Wong Pan, Linda Geary, Kay Hoiby, Laura Rose.

Excused: Rebecca Benner. Kellie George.

Opening Business.

Motion made by Kay to approve June minutes. Linda seconded, all approved June minutes.

Discussion of upcoming presentation to the Town Board:

- Decision made to add an extra meeting, to work specifically on our presentation to the Town Board.
- Discussed what we want to say. Some of this includes:
 - Articulating how we got to where we are.
 - Discussing the value of baseline monitoring.
 - Presenting the Open Space Database.
 - Either offering draft templates for conservation and agricultural easements, or discussing their value, what they can include and how they can be helpful.
 - Explaining the usual flow of taking on and administering conservation easements.
 - Brainstorming how this work can be funded.
 - The work of annual monitoring, and handling enforcement when necessary.

Continuing discussion around helping the town develop conservation protocols.

- We again discussed our potential role in processing the town's conservation easements.
- We agree our role can be advisory, and we welcome this role.
- We agree we can make a difference, as Kay's persistence with Shaft Road has shown.
- We discussed charging developers for baseline monitoring, as part of the application process.
- We discussed professionals in the field who can best help the town do this work, moving forward.
- We would like to recommend the town use an attorney or firm experienced in both drafting and litigating conservation easements, specifically, to help with drafting and reviewing easements.
- We discussed articulating the value of easements chosen, developing language around conservation values that might fit in an application, and that the articulation of conservation values belongs in the accepted easement.
- We reviewed Becca's draft of a monitoring checklist.

Moving forward.

- Jean suggested we schedule to make a presentation to the Planning Board, similar to the one we're scheduled to present to the Town Board on August 13th.
- We talked briefly about preserving land in the next year, and how we're going to choose the parcel(s).
 - Discuss and identify our priorities.
 - Explore more re: who has money and which grants we can likely get.
 - Landowners may also be interested in donating land.
- We talked about the critical habitat analysis done by Gardiner in conjunction with Shawangunk in 2014. Can we find a copy of this?

Next Meetings: July 29, 2019, 5-6:30 PM and August 12, 5-6:30 PM

Quotes: Laura WP **Snacks:**